LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:
    detecting a failure of a first virtualization device of a storage area network
        interconnect, wherein
        said storage area network interconnect is coupled to a metadata host,
        said metadata host is configured to maintain metadata associated with said
            first virtualization device, said metadata host is configured to
            monitor a heartbeat signal from a plurality of virtualization
            devices, and
        said first virtualization device is associated with a unique interconnect
            device identifier, **wherein**
                the unique interconnect device identifier is sufficient to identify
                    a virtualization device with which the unique
                    interconnect device identifier is associated, and
                the unique interconnect device identifier is configured to
                    identify the virtualization device as a target of a data
                    transfer request; and
    associating said unique interconnect device identifier with a second virtualization
        device of said storage area network interconnect in response to said
        detecting, wherein said associating comprises modifying said metadata.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein
    said storage area network interconnect is coupled to an application host and to a
        storage device,
    said first virtualization device is configured to present a virtual storage element to
        said application host using a host device identifier, and
    said virtual storage element comprises at least a portion of said storage device.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein

said second virtualization device is configured to present said virtual storage
element to said application host using said host device identifier in
response to said associating; and

said second virtualization device is selected from a plurality of virtualization
devices.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said monitoring
comprises:

monitoring a communications link for a heartbeat signal from said first
virtualization device via a failover manager.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein

said modifying comprises generating a metadata entry corresponding to said
second virtualization device, and

said metadata entry comprises said unique interconnect device identifier.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

storing a volume map at said second virtualization device in response to said
detecting, wherein said volume map is provided by said metadata host.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said unique interconnect device
identifier comprises a Fibre Channel device identifier.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said unique interconnect device
identifier comprises at least one of a world wide node name and a world wide port name.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein

said first virtualization device comprises a first virtualization switch, and

said second virtualization device comprises a second virtualization switch.

11.   **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said machine to perform a method comprising:

        detecting a failure of a first virtualization device of a storage area network interconnect, wherein

      said storage area network interconnect is coupled to a metadata host,

      said metadata host is configured to maintain metadata associated with said first virtualization device, said metadata host is configured to monitor a heartbeat signal from a plurality of virtualization devices, and

      said first virtualization device is associated with a unique interconnect device identifier<u>, wherein</u>

           <u>the unique interconnect device identifier is sufficient to identify a virtualization device with which the unique interconnect device identifier is associated, and</u>

        <u>the unique interconnect device identifier is configured to identify the virtualization device as a target of a data transfer request; and</u>

      associating said unique interconnect device identifier with a second virtualization device of said storage area network interconnect in response to said detecting, wherein said associating comprises modifying said metadata.

12.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 11 wherein

      said storage area network interconnect is coupled to an application host and to a storage device,

      said first virtualization device is configured to present a virtual storage element to said application host using a host device identifier, and

      said virtual storage element comprises at least a portion of said storage device.

13.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 12 wherein

said second virtualization device is configured to present said virtual storage element to said application host using said host device identifier in response to said associating.

14.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 13 wherein said monitoring comprises:

monitoring a communications link for a heartbeat signal from said first virtualization device.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 14 wherein

said modifying comprises generating a metadata entry corresponding to said second virtualization device, and

said metadata entry comprises said unique interconnect device identifier.

17.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 13, said method further comprising:

storing a volume map at said second virtualization device in response to said detecting, wherein said volume map is provided by said metadata host.

18.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 13 wherein said unique interconnect device identifier comprises a Fibre Channel device identifier.

19.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 13 wherein said unique interconnect device identifier comprises at least one of a world wide node name and a world wide port name.

20.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable by a machine embodied therein of claim 13 wherein

said first virtualization device comprises a first virtualization switch, and

said second virtualization device comprises a second virtualization switch.

21.   **(Currently Amended)** A data processing system comprising:

means for detecting a failure of a first virtualization device of a storage area network interconnect, wherein

said first virtualization device is associated with a unique interconnect device identifier, **wherein**

the unique interconnect device identifier is sufficient to identify a virtualization device with which the unique interconnect device identifier is associated, and

the unique interconnect device identifier is configured to identify the virtualization device as a target of a data transfer request,

said storage area network interconnect is coupled to an application host, a metadata host, and to a storage device,

said metadata host is configured to maintain metadata associated with a virtual storage element,

said metadata host is configured to monitor a heartbeat signal from a plurality of virtualization devices,

said first virtualization device is configured to present said virtual storage element to said application host using a host device identifier, and

said virtual storage element comprises at least a portion of said storage device; and

means for associating said unique interconnect device identifier with a second virtualization device of said storage area network interconnect coupled to said means for detecting, wherein said associating comprises modifying said metadata.

22.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 21 wherein

- 6 -

said second virtualization device is configured to present said virtual storage element to said application host using said host device identifier in response to said associating.

23.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 22 wherein said means for detecting comprises:

means for monitoring a communications link for a heartbeat signal from said first virtualization device.

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 22 wherein said unique interconnect device identifier comprises a Fibre Channel device identifier.

26.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 22 wherein said unique interconnect device identifier comprises at least one of a world wide node name and a world wide port name.

27.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 22 wherein

said first virtualization device comprises a first virtualization switch, and

said second virtualization device comprises a second virtualization switch.

28.   **(Currently Amended)** A data processing system comprising:

a metadata host, wherein the metadata host comprises:

a monitor module to monitor a communications link for a heartbeat signal from a

first virtualization device of a storage area network interconnect,

wherein said first virtualization device is associated with a unique

interconnect device identifier__, wherein__

__the unique interconnect device identifier is sufficient to identify__

__a virtualization device with which the unique__

__interconnect device identifier is associated, and__

__the unique interconnect device identifier is configured to__

__identify the virtualization device as a target of a data__

__transfer request__; and

- 7 -

a failover module coupled to said monitor module to detect a failure of said first

virtualization device and to associate said unique interconnect device

identifier with a second virtualization device of said storage area network

interconnect in response to said detecting.

29.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 28 wherein

said storage area network interconnect is coupled to an application host and to a

storage device,

said first virtualization device is configured to present a virtual storage element to

said application host using a host device identifier, and

said virtual storage element comprises at least a portion of said storage device.

30.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 29 wherein

said second virtualization device is configured to present said virtual storage

element to said application host using said host device identifier following

a failure of said first virtualization device.

Application No.: 10/788,698